

1946

Anniversary Book; 50th; 1946

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Niagara Falls

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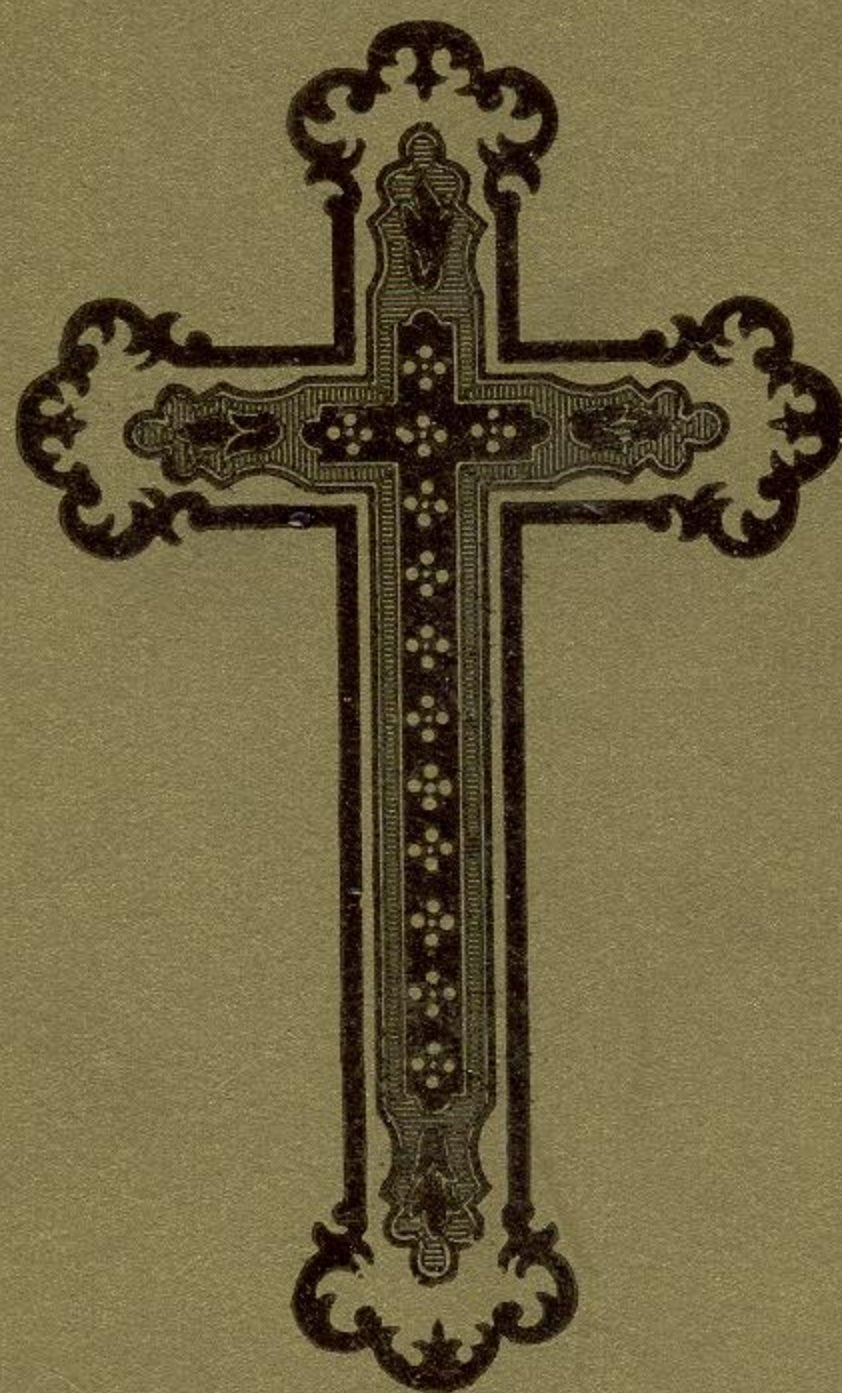
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1896

1946

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

NIAGARA FALLS



NEW YORK

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE

of

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Cleveland Avenue and Eighteenth Street
NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.



"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name!"
—Psalm 100:4

OCTOBER 6 to 30, 1946

SUNDAY, OCTOBER SIXTH

9:30 a. m. SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY AND PROMOTION DAY

10:45 a. m. HARVEST HOME FESTIVAL

Text: Psalm 132:13-18

Theme: "The Obligations Imposed by America's Second Most Bountiful Harvest."

Speaker: The Rev. Leonhard Ludwig, D.D.

7:30 p. m. ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

St. Paul's Junior and Senior Choirs; Mr. Roland Schroeder, Choirmaster; Mrs. Wm. Woodman, Organist.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER THIRTEENTH

9:30 a. m. SUNDAY SCHOOL AND PASTOR'S BIBLE CLASS

10:45 a. m. SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS OF THE PAST

Text: Psalm 107:1

Theme: "O Give Thanks Unto the Lord!"

Speaker: The Rev. Edward Nemeschy, Jr., Town Line, N. Y.

3:00 p. m. HOUR OF FELLOWSHIP

Theme: "Our Fellowship in Christ."

Speaker: The Rev. Otto Bruss, Bergholtz, N. Y.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER TWENTIETH

9:30 a. m. SUNDAY SCHOOL AND PASTOR'S BIBLE CLASS

10:45 a. m. SERVICE OF DEDICATION FOR THE FUTURE

Text: Romans 12:12

Theme: "Into the Future with God."

Speaker: The Rev. Paul Nemeschy, Medina, N. Y.

7:30 p. m. YOUTH SERVICE AND REUNION OF ALL CONFIRMED IN ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Text: Acts 8:19

Theme: "The Practice of Power."

Speaker: The Rev. Alwin J. Prange, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER TWENTY-SECOND

8:00 p. m. WOMEN'S NIGHT

Theme of Address: "Lord Thy Handmaiden I Would Be!"

Speaker: The Rev. Edward R. Pflueger, Odessa, Wash.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER TWENTY-THIRD

6:30 p. m. ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Served in the Parish Hall of Zion Lutheran Church,
Michigan Avenue and Tenth Street.

Toastmaster: The Rev. Leonhard Ludwig.

Theme: "St. Paul's and Her Children," developed by a
number of invited speakers and by spokesmen for the
several auxiliary societies.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER TWENTY-SEVENTH

9:30 a. m. SUNDAY SCHOOL AND PASTOR'S BIBLE CLASS

10:45 a. m. THE FESTIVAL OF THE REFORMATION

Text: Rev. 14:6-7

Theme: "The Lutheran Church in the Crucible."

Speaker: The Rev. Leonhard Ludwig.

7:30 p. m. THE ANNIVERSARY COMMUNION

The pastor of St. Paul's in charge with the pastor of Calvary
Lutheran Church assisting.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER THIRTIETH

8:00 p. m. MEN'S NIGHT

Theme of Address: "God's Rules of Life."

Speaker: Mr. Martin C. Ewald, North Tonawanda, N. Y.
President of the Board of Trustees of the
American Lutheran Church.



Mission Sunday Afternoon, September 8, 1946

The Story of Fifty Year's of God's Grace



WHENCE WE ARE DIGGED

*"Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the
hole of the pit whence ye are digged."* —Isaiah 51:1

In looking back to the rock whence it was hewn and to the hole of the pit whence it was digged, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Niagara Falls, New York, becomes humbly proud to discover that its forbears were that solid Lutheran stock which for conscience' sake left the Prussia in which an arbitrary king forced a union between Protestants of Lutheran and Reformed convictions.

Some thousand souls left Hamburg, Germany, in five small transports the summer of 1839 and, having arrived in New York, made their way by river steamer and canal boat to Buffalo. About forty Pomeranian families continued with Pastor von Rohr to the vicinity of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The rest of the immigrants, mostly from Saxony, founded Trinity Old Lutheran Church of Buffalo with the Rev. Johannes Andreas August Grabau as pastor.

A second wave of immigrants, chiefly from the villages of Walmow, Bergholz, Ploeben and Nipperwiese in Pomerania, arrived the end of September 1843. Pastor J. Kindermann led part of these to Wisconsin where congregations were founded at Cedarburg, Kirchhain and Lebanon. The rest were parishioners of Pastor Ehrenstroem, and these founded the communities of Walmore, Bergholtz, Johannsburg and Martinsville in Niagara County. The congregations of the first two communities became the mothers of St. Paul's.

In 1866 a congregation of the Buffalo Synod was founded at Altamont, Illinois, many of its members having come from the settlements in Western New York. A not inconsequential movement of younger members of this congregation back to Niagara Falls set in early in the new century and became another source of strength for St. Paul's.

Grateful acknowledgement must go out in many directions as St. Paul's observes its golden jubilee.

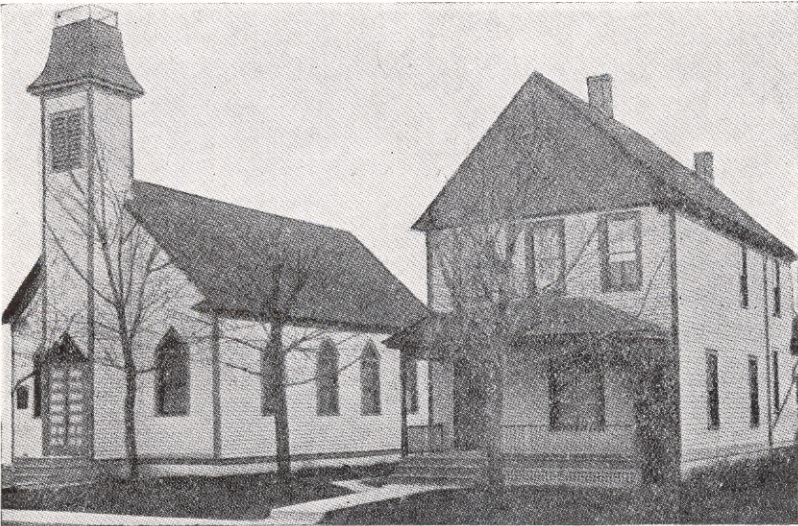
THE FOUNDING

"The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed into his field."

Matthew 13:31

The pastors of St. Jacob's Church, Bergholtz, and St. Peter's, Walmore, felt concern for their younger people working in the city and prevented from active participation in their home congregations by bad roads and other unfavorable conditions. On October 27, 1895, Rev. John A. Grabau met with a group of interested people in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Haseley, 636 Ashland Avenue, to discuss the question of arranging for preaching services in the city. As far as can be ascertained the following were present at this meeting: Mr. and Mrs. G. Haseley, Martha Miller, Lena Miller, Helen Devantier, Henry Haseley, John Haseley, Julia Haseley, Anna Haseley, George Neubauer, Rose Blumreich, Minnie Neumann, Otto Neumann. The first service was conducted December 7 in Seippel's Hall, on the third floor of the premises at Main and Spruce streets. After two months the Guild Hall of Epiphany Episcopal Church, Main and Lockport streets, was found to be a much more desirable place of worship. The general arrangement for these afternoon services was that Rev. J. A. Grabau of Bergholtz preached one Sunday, a student from Martin Luther Seminary of Buffalo the next Sunday, Rev. H. Mackensen of Walmore the third Sunday, another student on the fourth, and thus the rotation was continued.

October thirteenth 1896 a special meeting was held and the organization of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Niagara Falls, N. Y., effected with Christian Metcher, Gustav Haseley and Philipp Neubauer elected as trustees and Frederick Winters as deacon. Church dues were fixed at \$7.20 for the head of a family, \$6 for a bachelor and \$3 for an unmarried woman. It is difficult to fix the charter membership, partly



First Church and Parsonage

because of lack of authentic records, more largely so because some people who attended regularly from the first did not transfer their memberships from the rural congregations for one or several years. The first move to incorporate miscarried. It was voted a second time April 29, 1898, and the papers were signed by Rev. J. A. Grabau, Frederick J. Winters, William Neubauer and John Wittkopp.

His one artificial limb did not hinder Frederick Winters from carrying on most energetically for his church. He took the initiative to secure the 75 by 120 feet lot on the south-west corner of Cleveland avenue and Eighteenth street for a consideration of one thousand dollars. When Johann Mueller, Sr., of Berg-holtz was willing to loan the congregation \$1500.00 without interest (and without mortgage or other papers!), steps were taken to erect a modest frame church which should seat about 125 people. It was the bell of the von Rohr church, swinging in the flat-topped tower, which on June 5, 1898, summoned the members and friends of St. Paul's to three services of dedication, the last of these in the English language.

In the summer of 1897 the Buffalo Synod had ordered that St. Paul's of Niagara Falls and St. Andrew's of Lockport constitute one parish, served from Lockport. Candidate Emmanuel Schulz, who had been one of the supplying students, was called as first pastor. When, after only a few months, St. Peter's of Medina applied to be served by Pastor Schulz from Lockport, he relinquished the Niagara Falls call. It was extended to him again in February 1899 and he served as St. Paul's pastor until November of that year when he accepted a call to Columbia, Michigan. The fact is that for five years the congregation had no resident pastor, ample explanation of the fact that early in 1900 it numbered only eight families and a few single people.



Mr. and Mrs. G. Haseley



THE PASTORATE OF REV. EDWARD NEMESCHY, SENIOR

"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake."

—Psalm 115:1

The congregation received its builder when late in 1899 the Rev. Edward Nemeschy, Sr., of Altamont, Illinois, was called and in February of 1900 installed as first resident pastor.

The homes of the two mothering congregations were generously thrown open for solicitation and especially with the aid of Rev. H. Mackensen, Pastor Nemeschy gathered funds from this source. Construction of the parsonage with schoolroom attached was begun in 1900,

occupation following January 2 of the new year. But the teaching of parochial school had begun even before the completion of the classroom. At the beginning of the week the boys had to set up desks in the church auditorium and on Friday remove them again. The girls had to wield the brooms and dustcloths. For fifteen years Rev. Nemeschy carried the double responsibility of pastor and parish school teacher. Let it be inserted here also that after the schoolroom was available it had to serve the social and organizational functions of the congregation as well.

The numerical growth of St. Paul's was such that the frame church became wholly inadequate. In February of 1916 the momentous decision was made to erect a brick church of much larger proportions.

With small means, but much faith, pastor and people went to work. The frame church was moved to the back of the lot to continue to serve the congregation during the construction period. By September 24 the cornerstone of the new church could be laid. June 24, 1917, was dedication day with morning, afternoon and evening services, followed by a bi-lingual service Monday evening. Festival preachers were the pastors E. Graubau, Edward Nemeschy, Jr., Paul Nemeschy, R. Grabau, J. Bartell, H. Leupold, J. Stender. Total cost of the building with pipe organ was \$21,000.00 of which \$7,000.00 was raised by the people and the balance remained as debt.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of organization was observed October 16, 1921, with a printed program and historical synopsis, and with three services in which Pastors H. Mackensen, Paul Nemeschy, Edward Nemeschy, Jr., Otto Bruss, J. N. Grabau, took part as preachers. A total offering of \$1500.00 was reached. The congregation at that time numbered 420 souls, 230 confirmed and 92 voting members.

In the year 1923 the present parsonage was purchased at a cost of \$9,500.00, of which sum \$2,000.00 were immediately subscribed by the members, the balance amortized as a part of the total church debt. Two years later the interior of the church was beautifully decorated in anticipation of the entertainment of the Buffalo Synod.

For over 29 years Rev. Nemeschy had ruggedly carried on as pastor of St. Paul's and in other capacities of which we shall hear later. Without lingering illness, even as he would have wished it, his Lord called him to the Church Triumphant December 4, 1929, leaving behind him a congregation which so largely owed its numerical growth, its physical plant,



Pastor Nemeschy



First Confirmation Class and Interior of Old Church

and its spiritual vigor to his untiring labors. He rests, amid some of his flock, in St. Paul's Cemetery in Bergholtz.



THE PASTORATE OF REV. GUSTAV H. ZIEMER

*"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ." —II Peter 3:18*

The congregation did not call a stranger when it invited Rev. G. Ziemer of Neustadt, Ontario, to become its pastor. As a student at Martin Luther Seminary, as a schoolmate of the sons of the parsonage, as a neighbor pastor, he had become quite well acquainted with Niagara Falls. When he was installed April 27, 1930, the pioneering period of the congregation was definitely past. Developments could come in three directions: payment of the church debt, additions to membership and deepening of the spiritual life. In all these directions the new pastor gave a good account of himself.

When the fortieth anniversary of the congregation was celebrated in 1936 the membership stood at 431 souls and 345 communicants. For this event the interior of the church was redecorated and new light fixtures and carpet installed at a total cost of \$1785.49. The offering stimulated by society efforts and the use of special offering boxes, reached a total of \$2849.32. In the fall of 1941 a new heating system was contracted for at a cost of \$1352.00. By October 3, 1943, the last vestige of indebtedness was wiped out and a joyful mortgage burning ceremony could take place. It stands to Pastor Ziemer's credit that he introduced more extended devotional and study periods into the auxiliary organizations of the

church. It should also be chronicled that in September 1937 St. Paul's was host to the convention of the Eastern District of the American Lutheran Church.

All these years the language in the morning service of the congregation was German, even though most of its people were the first or second generation born in this country. As far back as 1933 we discover that the attendance at the evening service, which was conducted in English, was greater than that of the morning hour of worship. From the end of May to the first Sunday in September the English service was regularly transferred to an hour ahead of the German morning service, and always it was attended by twice as many worshippers as the second service. Immediately upon Pearl

Harbor Sunday, December 7, 1941, it was voted to conduct all regular services in English, and since that time only an occasional Christmas or Good Friday service, not interfering with the main program, is conducted for those who still enjoy a service in the language in which they were instructed and confirmed.

It was on a return engagement to his former charge that Rev. Ziemer was stricken December 13, 1943. In his case the Lord decreed severe suffering from abscesses of the brain until on March 28, 1944, He bestowed the rest that remaineth for the people of God. April 1 the mortal remains of the second pastor of St. Paul's were lowered into the small chamber on God's Acre.



THE PRESENT

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

St. John 9:4

In the emergency created by the illness and death of Pastor Ziemer, God gave St. Paul's Church ready and able supply in the person of Rev. John Kuder, son of the congregation who was home on furlough from New Guinea and was already with his family occupying the old parsonage. In addition to a great deal of deputation speaking and to studies pursued at the University of Buffalo Pastor Kuder carried the pulpit program of St. Paul's and did a large measure of pastoral work. His familiarity with



Pastor Ziemer

the parish, his energy and happy disposition, allowed him to contribute much at a crisis period, when World War II roared to its climax and the maximum number of young men were away from home.

It was on December 7, 1944, that St. Paul's congregation called its third pastor, reaching way out to Portland, Oregon, to the Rev. Leonhard Ludwig, D.D., who since 1937 had been full time president of the Northwestern District of the American Lutheran Church. His acceptance of the call in mid-January was accompanied by the request to be allowed to finish out the synodical year until the convention of district the end of April. Arriving in Niagara Falls Saturday noon, May 12, installation of the new pastor took place in the evening service of the following day with Rev. A. J. Prange preaching the sermon and Revs. H. C. Damm and John Kuder sharing the liturgy and the service of installation.

For future reference it should perhaps be placed in print here that as of December 31, 1944, the membership of the congregation was given as 480 souls and 367 confirmed of whom 330 actually communed.

One of the first tasks confronting the new pastor was unfortunately a financial one: to get under way a long delayed campaign for the Building Fund. It was resolved to aim at a Fiftieth Anniversary Gift of \$15,000.00 to be raised by means of private pledges and organizational contributions from October 1, 1945, until December 31, 1946. A committee headed by Mr. Hugo Hartwig carried on the solicitation. There are strong hopes that as the close of 1946 draws near the highest financial aim St. Paul's Church ever set for itself will be attained.

The second specific assignment was to plan a worthy celebration of the congregation's fiftieth anniversary. Other pages carry detailed programs of the events from October 6 to October 30th.

Simultaneously the laymen undertook an extensive program of rehabilitation of the church building. Minor improvements were made on the outside. The entire wall space of the church auditorium was washed by a responsible firm. The improvements of the basement resulted in almost completely new facilities. If the acquisition of hymnals with music for the entire church and of a new set of dishes for the kitchen be reckoned as anniversary undertakings, the total improvements will reach a cost of about \$3,500.00.

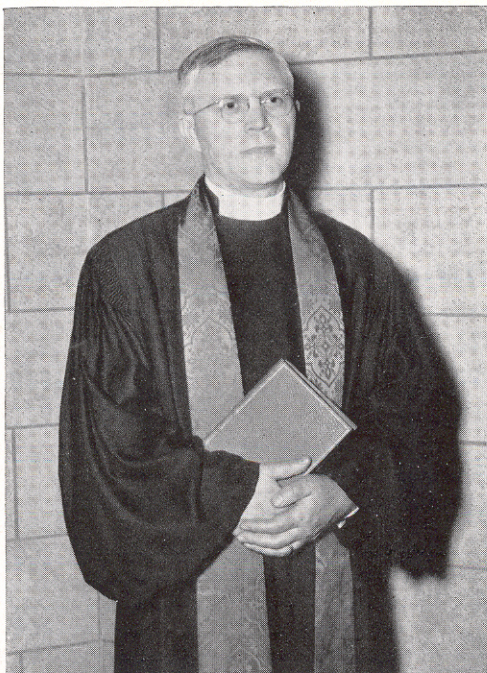
As St. Paul's Church enters upon her second half century of work in a con-



Pastor Kuder

fused post-war world, Pastor Ludwig considers it to be his main task: first, to lead young and old to such a conscious, personal faith that they "may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Eph. 6:13); secondly, to recast the organizational life into the patterns generally deemed the most effective for this day and age; thirdly, to encourage the laity to assume an ever larger measure of spiritual activity, including responsibility for devotions, topic discussions, and especially also personal evangelism.

The tasks of the Church are never finished. This is "our" Gospel day, the day when the present pastor and the present membership of St. Paul's must work the works of Him from whom we have our common commission. Let us join hearts and hands to do God's work in God's way diligently, while it is day for us!



Pastor Ludwig



THE LADIES' AID

March 7, 1901, a number of women of St. Paul's Church were assembled to organize a "Frauen und Jungfrauenverein." The constitution was adopted April 11. The signatures under that first constitution were: Mrs. F. Winters, Mrs. G. Neubauer, Mrs. L. Nemeschy, Mrs. Gottfried Blumreich, Mrs. Jacob Philipps, Miss Emma Grobengieser, Miss Anna Mehls, Miss Ida Dellabough, Miss Helene Devantier, Miss Sophia Siegmann, Miss Lily Klemmer, Miss Ida Wittkopp, Mrs. Hulda Sacht, Miss Rosa Hildebrandt, M. Meier, Mrs. Chr. Metcher, Mrs. John Wittkopp, Mrs. Hattie Neubauer, Mrs. Gustie Neubauer, Mrs. Hulda Haseley. The treasurer's roster contains these additional names for 1901: Mrs. Albertine Collins, Mrs. Geo. Koelle, Miss C. Sanders, Miss Maria Miller. Miss Adel. Grobengieser's name begins to appear November 1903.

In 1921 the pastor reported 38 members and has this praise: "Although small in number, yet the society has done much toward the upkeep of our church property."

Mrs. Ch. Buerger was the first English secretary, beginning May 1922. March 5, 1925, Mrs. F. Heuer took over and has carried on ever since. The presidents which served during the period of time for which we have the minutes were: Mrs. Chas. Buerger 1922-24, Mrs. Albert Haseley

1924-34; Mrs. Philip Schultz 1934-43; Mrs. A. Grobengieser since January 7, 1945.

A new constitution was worked up the summer of 1934. Since January 7, 1937, the society took an active part in the Women's Missionary Federation of the American Lutheran Church, officially joining February 5, 1942.

The Aid has gone on record as being ready to surrender the Women's Missionary Federation phases of its work to a purely missionary society to be founded, which presumably could interest many more women of the congregation. The active members of the Aid would all join the new society. A noble spirit indeed!

Perhaps this is as good a connection as any in which to report that St. Paul's had a mission society open to men and women for part of its history. This society was essentially an auxiliary to the Kurdistan Mission Society of which Pastor H. Mackensen was promotional secretary at the time.



THE LADIES' ENDEAVOR SOCIETY

Twelve women met November 14, 1927, to organize what at the next meeting was called the Ladies' Endeavor Society of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. They elected as officers: Mrs. A. Rickert president, Mrs. Ed. Hasley vice president, Miss Rose Blumreich secretary, Miss Christine Sanders treasurer. The other eight were: Mrs. H. Brown, Mrs. E. Bates, Mrs. F. Fairman, Mrs. E. Ruth, Mrs. Wm. Schul, Mrs. H. Corwin, Mrs. F. Loge, Mrs. H. Hartwig. Mrs. Woolcott was a visitor.

By December 1928 the following had also joined: Mrs. Bohart, Mrs. Wm. King, Mrs. R. C. Parris, Miss Claribel Ferrick, Miss Ethel Koelle, Mrs. Otto Neumann, Mrs. Fred Mehls, Miss Lydia Zimmerman.

The constitution adopted December 2, 1927, provided for a business meeting the first Monday of the month and a social meeting the third Monday. There was no provision for a spiritual part of the program until the first such feature was introduced October 13, 1931.

Very complete and neatly kept minutes tell of the various changes in by-laws, of the diligence of the ladies in working for reduction of the church debt and raising funds for needed equipment, of the benevolence appropriations which were voted from year to year, and of the fellowship enjoyed at the meetings.

Those who have guided the destiny of this society as presidents are:

Mrs. A. Rickert	.	.	.	.	.	1927-28
Mrs. H. Corwin	.	.	.	.	.	1928-29
Mrs. F. Fairman	.	.	.	.	.	1930
Mrs. Ed. Mehls	.	.	.	.	.	1931
Mrs. H. Ziske	.	.	.	.	.	1932
Mrs. Geo. Stremble.	.	.	.	.	.	1933-34
Mrs. Fred Loge	.	.	.	.	.	1935-37
Mrs. Hugo Hartwig	.	.	.	.	.	1938-42
Mrs. Ray Allen	.	.	.	.	.	1943-44
Mrs. Norman Heuer	.	.	.	.	.	1945-46

Associated with Mrs. Hartwig during her long term were: Mrs. George Stremble as vice president, Mrs. Henry Ziske as treasurer, Mrs. Ruth Gandt as secretary.

THE LADIES' ENDEAVOR SOCIETY (continued)

The present officers, in addition to the president, are: Mrs. Laura Schul vice president, Mrs. Wm. Koch secretary, Mrs. Edna Schoonover treasurer.

The membership approaches fifty women.



MEN'S BENEFIT SOCIETY

On November 11, 1908, the "Young Men's Society" came into being. While it was meant to promote sociability among the men of the congregation and also enable them to assist in the endeavors of the church in an organized way, the sick and death benefit features became the most prominent.

In order to be more in line with the Brotherhood movement in other parts of the Lutheran Church and in order to gain meeting time for programs of more general interest, it was resolved to separate the several items of interest to the men of the church which hitherto had been carried on in the one society.

The parent group changed its name slightly to "Men's Benefit Society" and limited itself to quarterly meetings with the Executive Committee taking care of all business in between. Mr. Henry Sy, the long time president, continues in this office. John Gombert is the present vice-president. Alfred Schultz serves as secretary. Messrs. John Devantier and Walter Holland are the financial officers. There are more than 70 men on the roll of this organization.



THE BROTHERHOOD

It was immediately after the January 2, 1946, meeting of the Men's Benefit Society that twenty men constituted themselves the Brotherhood of St. Paul's Church, tentatively adopted a constitution and elected the following officers: Martin W. Schultz, president; George Hartwig, vice-president; John Kuder, secretary; Richard Schultz, treasurer.

Above action was confirmed in the March 6 meeting and committees were appointed. By May the membership had risen to some 60 men and application was made to the Brotherhood of the American Lutheran Church for a charter.

Together with the Niagara Frontier Area Brotherhood our young society must yet consolidate its membership and develop a Brotherhood spirit that will not only express itself in good sociability, but also in serious study and spiritual church work.



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Inclusive of the Pastor's Bible Class of forty members the Sunday school has an enrollment of about 150. Mr. Ernest A. Schultz is assistant superintendent and teacher of the Young People's Bible Class. Mr. Edward J. Schultz is attendance secretary with Richard and Wallace Schultz as assistants. Other teachers are: Mrs. Arthur Ziske, Mrs. Ed.



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL, SEPTEMBER 15, 1946

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL (continued)

Hasley, Miss Shirley Ziske, Mrs. Wm. Koch, Mrs. Virginia Kendall, Mrs. H. Ziske, who also serves as treasurer, Mrs. Edward J. Schultz, Mrs. George Gombert who is also recording secretary, Miss Lois Ludwig, Mrs. Norman Heuer, Mrs. Edna Schoonover, Miss Marian Gombert, Mr. Arthur Ruff. Mesdames Amanda Ziemer, L. Ludwig, E. Burge and E. Hughes are ready to serve as substitute teachers.



THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

It appears that St. Paul's Church enjoyed the services of a choir for well nigh its entire history. Student Carl Poppen, deceased brother of the general president of the American Lutheran Church, was an early director. Others who carried on valiantly were Mr. Martin Schulz, Mr. Benjamin Nemeschy, Mr. Charles G. Blumreich, Mr. Henry Sander.

The present senior choir of some thirty voices received its stamp and character from the inspiring directing of Mr. Roland Schroeder, who climaxed five years of service with the monumental fiftieth anniversary concert rendered the evening of October 6.

Mr. Schroeder has also worked with a junior choir of approximately twenty voices, taking over the voices from this choir to the senior choir whenever they were ready, sometimes combining the two choirs, and always treating the choir work as a unit.

More essential to church services than even a choir is a faithful and capable organist. Early organists were: Student Julius Neudorfer, Student Edward Nemeschy, Student Carl Poppen and Mr. Martin Schulz. But those who presided at St. Paul's organ for the greater part of the half century are Mrs. E. A. Schultz (Lydia Nemeschy), Mr. Bernhard Meierhans, and for the past five years his daughter, Mrs. Wm. Woodman.

There have always been willing assistant organists, of which we list Mrs. Ruth Williams, Miss Edith Voelker, Mrs. Mildred Schultz, Mrs. Gertrude Gombert and Miss Lois Ludwig.

History also speaks of a male chorus and an orchestra as at one time functioning as musical organizations of St. Paul's.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

Perhaps the *Usher's Society* of long ago should be counted as the first organization for the young people of the congregation. They paid dues, they performed such services as church cleaning, and they had social meetings.

But it was November 16, 1925, that "*The Young People's Society*" was organized with Edgar Schultz as president, Caroline Steinbrenner as vice president, Ruth Schultz as secretary and Elwin Heuer as treasurer. It proved a vigorous organization which not only provided a social outlet for the young people, but also undertook numerous service items. Miss Ruth Schultz, now Mrs. Walter Williams, proved a tireless worker.



THE ANNIVERSARY CHOIR



CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 1944

YOUNG PEOPLES WORK (continued)

In 1937 the question was agitated to separate into a junior and a senior society. Richard Schultz, Edward Schultz, Leonard Schulz, Harold MaGinn, Dorothy Wolf and Helen Grobengieser did the planning for the junior group and on April 30 organized with Helen Grobengieser as chairman. Six years later it was agreed to merge for the duration of the war which took so many of the young men away from home.

As there had been a fifteenth anniversary entertainment, so the twentieth anniversary of what had now long been known as the Luther League was observed with a banquet November 12, 1945. Shirley Hartwig was president at the time, Lois Rickert vice president, Betty Schultz secretary and John Kuder treasurer. Mrs. Ruth Ziemer Schultz furnished the "Lowdowns and Highlights" of league history, and toastmaster Edgar Schultz presided over the impromptu debate: "Resolved that the Luther League of earlier years was superior to the Luther League of today." At the conclusion of this banquet the pastor raised the question of again dividing into two groups, and this was made effective as of January 1946.

"The Young Adult Fellowship" had its organization meeting January 6 with thirteen charter members, the number now standing at about thirty. Paul Mehls was first president, Mrs. Lydia Hughes was elected vice president, but had to assume the presidency at Paul's enlistment. Arthur Ruff and Gertrude Schulz were elected treasurer and secretary respectively. The Misses Marian Gombert, Shirley Ziske, Lois Ludwig and Mrs. Wm. Koch are chairmen of the chief committees.

The Luther League of about 25 members elected John Kuder president, Iris Hasley vice president, Florence Schulz secretary, Robert Schultz treasurer. Iris Hasley assumed the presidency on John Kuder's enrollment in college, and Helen Schultz succeeded to the secretaryship when Florence Schulz joined the senior group. George Hartwig, Dorothy Schultz, and Eileen Schul are heading the committees.



SCOUTING

In November of 1940 "Troop 40" was organized under the sponsorship of the Young Men's Society. The four stalwarts who have carried the burden of responsibility the longest have been Mr. George Stremble, Mr. Hugo Hartwig, Mr. Henry Sy, Mr. Wm. Schul. The first of these served as committee chairman for three years while Mr. Eric Pratt was scoutmaster, then assuming the latter's position. Mr. Sy has completed five years as treasurer. Mr. Hugo Hartwig is the present committee chairman and secretary. A number of other men have been helpful from time to time, but the one who has become a real "faithful" on the committee is Mr. Ray Allen, who is acting as enthusiastic "outdoor man."

Ed. Rhoney and Richard Schul are the present assistant scoutmasters with George Hartwig as junior assistant.

At the suggestion of Pastor Kuder a troop of Girl Scouts was sponsored by the Ladies Endeavor Society. It flourished for a year under the leadership of Mrs. Franklin Newman and Miss Shirley Ziske, but is dormant at the present.

This page is dedicated to the sons of St. Paul's who answered their country's call to the colors in the two world wars which occurred during the congregation's history. It is of God's special goodness that each of these sons returned.

VETERANS OF WORLD WAR I

Ernest Bates	Rudolph F. Schultz
*George Forknall, Sr.	Fred Steinbrenner
Ed. Hasley	Julius Steinbrenner
Fred Mehls	*George Stremble
Benjamin Nemeschy	Ed. Werth
Chas. Schul	Walter Winters
Ernest A. Schultz	Henry Ziske

VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II

Geo. E. Ashley	Robert B. Nemeschy
Paul H. Bartz	Oscar Neumann
Kenneth Bates	Franklin D. Newman
David Biederman	Melvin Ruff
Arnold Becker	Herbert Ruff
Richard G. Brandel	Arthur Ruff
Edison Brown	William Ruff
Arthur Dietrich	*James L. Robinson
George E. Forknall	*Andrew Scarupa
*T. Howard Garner	*Walter K. Schaal
George J. Gombert	*Arthur Schoonover
Edward Grobengieser	Roy Schul
Harold Grobengieser	Howard Schul
Arnold F. Haseley	Richard Schul
Myron Haseley	Edward J. Schultz
Daniel Hassan	Richard P. Schultz
*Horace J. Holliday	Wallace H. Schultz
E. Lambert Johnson	Alex. S. Stevenson
*William Koch	Robert M. Tonner
William Lloyd	Norman E. Yarrington
Howard Loge	Richard G. Werth
Harold G. MaGinn	Arnold P. Ziemer
James C. Manz	Frederick H. Ziemer

*Joined the congregation after return from war service



Officers of the Congregation and Church Council

Norman Heuer, *Secretary of Council*

Standing: Councilmen D. Toellner, Wm. Schul, R. F. Schultz, John Devantier, Arthur Ruff, W. Holland.

Seated: Alfred Schultz, *Treasurer*; Henry Sy, *Vice President*; Pastor L. Ludwig, Chas. Voelker, *Financial Secretary*.

Edgar Schultz, *Secretary of Congregation*

THE CHURCH AT LARGE

St. Paul's Church has made a real contribution to the church at large throughout most of the years of its existence. One substantial form of this is to allow its pastors to give time and energy to synodical responsibilities.

The Rev. Edward Nemeschy, Sr., served the Buffalo Synod for many years as member of the Board of Managers, as president of the Board of Directors of Martin Luther Seminary, as president of the Eastern District, and from 1913 to 1924 as general president of the church body.

The Rev. Gustav H. Ziemer served as a vice president of the Eastern District of the American Lutheran Church from 1930 until his death. He was president of the District's Buffalo Conference and he served various terms as president of the local pastoral conference.

The Rev. L. Ludwig is second vice president of the Eastern District and member of its Committee on Home Missions. He is a member of the Committee on Fellowship of the American Lutheran Church and has just been named chairman of a special committee to study the relation of Lutheran Mission Finschhafen to the American Lutheran Church.

One of St. Paul's laymen, Mr. Henry Sy, has been a long term member of the Committee on Stewardship of the Eastern District.

Another form in which the congregation has shown its interest in the work of the church at large is its readiness to support all worthy causes with generous gifts. The benevolent giving for the year 1945 reached a total of \$4,838.48 with many privately forwarded gifts not included. This sum will be approximated in 1946 also. The contribution of \$2500.00 to the Educational Appeal of the American Lutheran Church was outstanding.

"Not weary in well doing." "Abounding in the work of the Lord." These are Biblical injunctions St. Paul's wants to follow.



SERVING THE LORD

St. Paul's Church counts those sons and daughters as jewels in its crown who have entered full time service in the church in one form or another.

In the regular ministry are Rev. Edward Nemeschy, Jr., of Town Line, N. Y., Rev. Paul Nemeschy of Medina, N. Y., and Rev. Walter Williams of Defiance, Ohio.

In foreign mission service are Rev. John Kuder, now superintendent of Lutheran Mission Madang and Finschhafen in New Guinea, and Rev. Leonard Schulz, completing post-graduate studies at the Hartford Seminary Foundation preparatory to sailing to India in the spring of 1947.

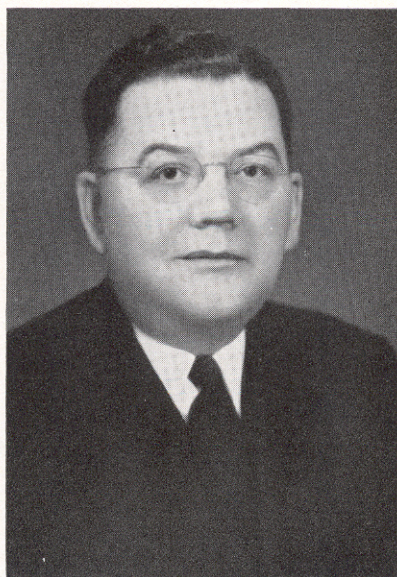
Miss Edith Voelker is parish worker in Biscayne Boulevard Lutheran Church of Miami, Florida.

We feel that recognition in this connection is due also the daughters of St. Paul's who are helpmates to pastors. They are: Mrs. Ed. Nemeschy of Town Line, N. Y., Mrs. C. W. Mussall of Birnamwood, Wis., Mrs. John Kuder who has just rejoined her husband in New Guinea, Mrs. Walter Williams of Defiance, Ohio, Mrs. A. R. Roesener of Fairport, N. Y.

Sons at the present time enrolled at the seminaries of the Church are: Edward Schultz, Bernhard Walck and Robert Nemeschy.



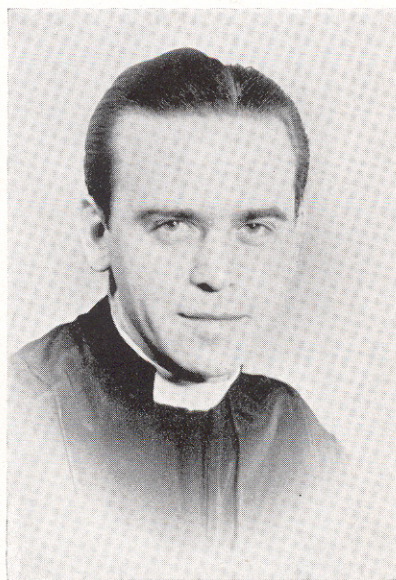
P. Edward Nemeschy, Jr.



P. Paul Nemeschy



P. Walter Williams



P. Leonard Schulz

COMMITTEES



GENERAL ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Rev. L. Ludwig, *Chairman and Editor of Anniversary Book*

Rudolph F. Schultz

Henry Sy

Charles Voelker

ANNIVERSARY OFFERING COMMITTEE

Hugo Hartwig, *Chairman*

Alfred Schultz, *Secretary*

Ernest Bates

Ben Nemeschy

Herman Roth

Fred Schultz

Henry Sy

Paul Mehls

Ernest A. Schultz

Mrs. Wm. Gandt

Mrs. Chas. Voelker

George Stremble

ADDITIONAL SOLICITORS

Mrs. C. Baird

Miss Lois Frye

Mrs. Geo. Gombert

Miss Marian Gombert

Mrs. Ed. Hasley

Miss Shirley Hartwig

Mrs. H. Hartwig

Mrs. Caroline Hicks

Mrs. Edith Moebius

Mrs. Edna Schoonover

Miss Betty Schultz

Mrs. Wm. Woodman

Mrs. H. Ziske

Norman Heuer

Walter Holland

Emrys Hughes

Sol Frye

Frank Gaul

George MaGinn

William Neumann

Arthur Ruff

Arthur Rickert

Martin W. Schultz

Martin Schulz

Edgar Schultz

Arthur Schultz

Rudolph F. Schultz

D. Toellner

Clarence Williams

Theo. Witt

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Henry Sy, *Chairman*

Ernest Bates

Ernest A. Schultz

BANQUET COMMITTEE

Mrs. Norman Heuer, *Chairman*

Miss Gertrude M. Schulz

Mrs. Edward Schultz

Hugo Hartwig

George Gombert

Arthur Schoonover

HISTORICAL DISPLAY

Mrs. George Gombert

Miss Lois Ludwig

MAILING

Miss Marian Gombert

Miss Lucey Blumreich

ART WORK

Robert Schultz

“FIRSTS”

The first baptism in St. Paul's congregation was that of Frances Margaretha Collins January 5, 1896, by Pastor J. A. Grabau in the home of the parents.

The first confirmation was that of an adult, Mrs. Rose Neubauer, nee Hildebrandt, May 2, 1900, by Pastor Edward Nemeschy.

The first marriage in the congregation and in the first church was that of Wilhelm Heinrich Neubauer and Auguste Caroline Kriedemann July 27, 1898, by Pastor J. A. Grabau.

The first funeral was that of Florina Wilhelmine Auguste Neubauer, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philipp Neubauer, October 4, 1896, by Pastor J. A. Grabau.



ST. PAUL'S ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

<i>O Savior of us all,</i>	<i>For fifty golden years</i>
<i>Grant to us of St. Paul's</i>	<i>Of freedom from all fears</i>
<i>Thy Spirit now!</i>	<i>We sing our song.</i>
<i>We need His presence sweet</i>	<i>Thy Word and Sacrament</i>
<i>To make us wholly meet</i>	<i>'Mid all the world's ferment</i>
<i>Here humbly at Thy feet</i>	<i>Did strength and courage lent</i>
<i>To pay our vow.</i>	<i>Half cent'ry long.</i>

*Thou, Lord, must go before
Through future's open door
To glorious reign!
May zeal within us glow
Thy holy will to know,
Thine honor forth to show,
O'er all th' world's main!*

—L. Ludwig

